

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150236  
ORIGIN SY-03

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DRAFTED BY:A/SY/OPS/FO:DLNESS

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SY/OPS/FO - MKDALTON

-----120427 290547Z /13

R 281901Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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FOR RSO

FOLLOWING BAMAKO 02571 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUNE 22, 1977  
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BAMAKO 2571

FOR AF/W, AND PEACE CORPS-FOR WILLIAMS AND HANDWERGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ASEC, ML

SUBJ: PEACE CORPS ADMINISTRATION -  
SECURITY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL

REF: (A) BAMAKO 2555, (B) STATE 144604

1. ON JUNE 16 ASSOCIATE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR/ADMIN  
AMADOU KEITA, A MALIAN CITIZEN, THREATENED THE LIFE  
OF PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR (PCD) BERKY. EMBASSY REPORTED  
MATTER TO SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY SEYDOU  
TRAORE, WHO TOLD AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 22 THAT CERTAIN  
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PAGE 02 STATE 150236

"SECURITY MEASURES" HAD BEEN TAKEN AND HE COULD ASSURE  
SAFETY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL AT PEACE CORPS HEADQUAR-  
TERS IN BAMAKO. DCM AND PCD, ACCOMPANIED BY MARINE  
NCOIC IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, IMMEDIATELY WENT TO PC  
HEADQUARTERS AND FOUND KEITA THERE.

2. DURING 15-MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH DCM,

KEITA DENIED HAVING THREATENED ANYBODY. DCM REMINDED HIM THAT WITHIN PAST 12 MONTHS HE HAD THREATENED TO KILL FORMER PC DIRECTOR BARBARA SIMS, ACTING DIRECTOR BARBARA SKAPA, EMBASSY TDY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER TOM MEARS, ASSOCIATE PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR/AG/RD DAVID DUPRAS, AND TRAINING PROJECT DIRECTOR CONSTANCE MERSON. IF HE HAD GRIEVANCES, SAID DCM, HE SHOULD HAVE GONE THROUGH CHANNELS. KEITA SAID ALL THOSE MENTIONED WERE WOMEN AND RACISTS. KEITA'S STATEMENTS GOT MORE IRRATIONAL AND HE WAS BECOMING EMOTIONALLY DISTRAUGHT, SO DCM BROKE OFF CONVERSATION.

3. DCM THEN TELEPHONED TRAORE AT FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SAY THAT SAFETY OF AMERICANS HAD IN NO WAY BEEN ASSURED. TRAORE REITERATED ASSURANCES OF GOVERNMENT OF MALI THAT AMERICANS WOULD NOT BE IN DANGER. TRAORE SUGGESTED THAT AMBASSADOR DISCUSS QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT OF KEITA WITH RESPONSIBLE MINISTER, SORY COULIBALY, OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. AMBASSADOR IMMEDIATELY ASKED TO CALL URGENTLY ON COULIBALY, WHO IS STILL TIED UP IN WEEKLY CABINET MEETING. AMBASSADOR INTENDS TO DISCUSS SAFETY OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF PRESENT SITUATION FOR PEACE CORPS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 150236

PROGRAM IN MALI.

5. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES MAY RECALL, EMBASSY BAMAKO WENT THROUGH NEARLY IDENTICAL SITUATION ONE YEAR AGO WHEN KEITA THREATENED TO KILL AMERICANS. ALL AMERICANS SO THREATENED BELIEVE THEIR LIVES TO BE IN JEOPARDY SHOULD KEITA REMAIN AT LARGE.

6. AMBASSADOR BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT PCD BERKY MUST REMAIN IN BAMAKO DURING NEGOTIATIONS WITH MALIAN GOVERNMENT AND REQUESTS THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO HIM TO RETURN IMMEDIATELY ON CONSULTATIONS (STATE 144604) BE HELD IN ABEYANCE.

7. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT. BYRNE UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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